



Director of
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25X1

Page Denied

Top Secret

25X1

Contents

Grenada: Regional and Nonaligned Reactions 1

25X1

USSR-Western Europe: CDE Preparatory Meeting 4**Nicaragua: Attacks on the Church** 5

25X1

France: Socialist Party Congress 7**USSR: Politburo Candidate Member Dies** 8**Honduras-El Salvador: Insurgents Using Refugee Camps** 9**Cuba: Antigovernment Incidents** 9**Kuwait: Terrorist Threats** 10**Lebanon: Key Army Post Filled** 10

25X1

Israel: Foreign Currency Controls 11**USSR: Andropov's Health** 12**Philippines: Marcos Clarifies Succession** 12

25X1

Top Secret

25X1

2 November 1983

25X1

Top Secret

25X1

GRENADA: Regional and Nonaligned Reactions

The invasion's widespread popularity in the Caribbean region is having domestic political repercussions in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and the Nonaligned Movement may be organizing to deter alleged US military actions against Nicaragua. Governor General Scoon's order to expel Soviet, Cuban, and Libyan diplomats probably will not be resisted by Moscow and Tripoli, but Havana may retaliate politically against Washington. [redacted]

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Jamaican Prime Minister Seaga's leadership role in the Grenada crisis has proved to be a political bonanza for him and the ruling Jamaica Labor Party, and a major setback for Michael Manley, leader of the leftist opposition. According to a recent poll, Seaga's party has regained the lead in popularity, a shift of 10 to 14 points in just a few weeks. [redacted]

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Seaga claims that the turnaround is due to his recent speech launching a long-awaited agricultural recovery program, Vice President Bush's visit to Kingston, and the Prime Minister's strong leadership role in the Grenada intervention. The opposition People's National Party has been hurt by Manley's continued close relationship with Cuban President Castro and by party leader Patterson's recent statement advocating restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba. [redacted]

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The intervention in Grenada is also popular in Trinidad and Tobago, where the first pro-US demonstration ever held in Port-of-Spain took place on Monday. Public criticism of Prime Minister Chambers for opposing the invasion is growing. [redacted]

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Chambers insists that he is taking a principled stand against the use of force and that Trinidad was kept in the dark by its Caribbean neighbors during the planning stages for the invasion. Nevertheless, the public is concluding that Chambers' indecisiveness led to his bungling of the first real foreign policy challenge of his two-year-old administration. [redacted]

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Comment: Seaga's resurgence in the polls could be short lived if he fails to make quick progress in resolving Jamaica's economic crisis, especially the current impasse with the IMF. [redacted]

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Chambers' opposition to the invasion and his party's recent unprecedented setback in local elections indicate that the Prime Minister's position as party leader may be in jeopardy. He may be able to blunt public criticism, however, by involving Trinidad in the peacekeeping function in Grenada. Moreover, the divided hierarchy of his ruling People's National Movement will find it difficult to agree on a successor. [REDACTED]

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Grenada Breaks Relations

Governor General Scoon signed an order yesterday cutting diplomatic ties with the USSR, Cuba, and Libya and giving their representatives 24 hours to leave. [REDACTED]

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In reaction, Cuba has announced it has sent the US a note stating that Havana will comply only through "intervention of US troops." The Cubans say their diplomatic personnel—except women and children—will remain until all Cuban prisoners have been evacuated. Press reports indicate that Havana has appealed to the UN Secretary General to ensure the safety of Cuban diplomats in Grenada. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The forceable expulsion of Cuba's diplomats would further anger President Castro, who might consider retaliating by expelling US diplomats from Havana. The Soviets will react to the break with renewed charges that Scoon is a US puppet. Moscow may seek a delay in its diplomats' departure, but it is likely to comply with the order to leave. [REDACTED]

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USSR-WESTERN EUROPE: CDE Preparatory Meeting

Moscow evidently wants to impress upon West European delegations to the preparatory meeting in Helsinki for the impending Conference on Disarmament in Europe that it is concerned about security issues other than INF. [redacted]

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The Soviets and their allies have approached the first week of procedural talks in a businesslike and nonpolemical manner, according to the US delegation. Chief Soviet negotiator Grinevskiy and other Eastern representatives have told their Western counterparts that they intend to abide by the preparatory conference's mandate to address only procedural matters and to conclude within three weeks. Polish delegates already are circulating an informal Eastern draft agenda for the CDE, which opens in Stockholm on 17 January. [redacted]

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During a plenary session last Friday, however, Grinevskiy warned that developments in Europe and elsewhere cannot fail to have a serious impact on the deliberations in Helsinki. Soviet media commentary on the preparatory meeting has recalled past Eastern charges of US obstructionism at the CSCE review meeting in Madrid, which had directed that the CDE be held. [redacted]

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Comment: The Soviets appear to be playing a cautious game in Helsinki—as they are at the MBFR talks in Vienna—out of concern that overplaying the INF issue in these nonnuclear multilateral arms talks might alienate the West Europeans. Moscow is sensitive that European governments value the MBFR and CSCE and CDE forums as opportunities to discuss security issues as equals with the two superpowers. [redacted]

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The USSR nevertheless intends to keep open the possibility of raising INF and other substantive matters at Helsinki. If the Warsaw Pact countries carry out their implied threats to walk out of various arms control talks later this month, a prolonged CDE preparatory conference could provide the Soviets with a platform from which to appeal to INF opponents in the West. [redacted]

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NICARAGUA: Attacks on the Church

Sandinista harassment of the Catholic Church for its opposition to military conscription has provoked the most intense church-state dispute since the violent clashes of August last year. []

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Since Saturday, Sandinista mobs have interrupted Masses, threatened churchgoers, and vandalized property at 22 churches in Managua and at an unknown number in outlying areas. Two priests reportedly have been assaulted, and US Embassy sources say another priest and 12 conscientious objectors have been arrested. []

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At a news conference on Sunday, Sandinista counterintelligence chief Ubeda presented a group of youths who confessed to plotting to seize buildings and issue proclamations opposing conscription. The Interior Ministry later announced the expulsion of two foreign priests accused of directing the youths. A Church spokesman told the US Embassy that no major statements against conscription had been made recently, although the hierarchy had voiced strong public opposition to the law earlier. []

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Church authorities decided on Sunday morning to suspend Masses in Managua for the rest of the day. They are considering canceling services today to celebrate All Souls Day—an important religious holiday in Central America. []

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Comment: The Church's criticism of conscription probably has not caused many to refuse to register. Nevertheless, the Sandinistas probably believe the Church is encouraging civil disobedience to prepare for even more defiant opposition. The government may also be taking advantage of the highly charged atmosphere, following the events in Grenada and the increased insurgent attacks, to try to discredit the Church. []

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The cancellation of services by the Church is an unprecedented response and is likely to disturb many Nicaraguans deeply. The two expelled priests are headmasters of the Masaya school where violence occurred last year, and further clashes are possible. []

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25X1

FRANCE: Socialist Party Congress

The Socialist Party congress held last weekend has strengthened President Mitterrand's political standing and, despite criticism of the US in the final resolution, French positions on key issues are likely to remain the same. []

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The Socialists adjourned their biennial congress with a show of unity. Supporters of Mitterrand managed to win the endorsement of leftists led by former Industry Minister Chevenement. The leftists dropped plans to attack Mitterrand's economic policies, apparently in return for increased criticism of the US in the final resolution. []

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The US Embassy reports that international questions played a larger role than expected because of Grenada. The party resolution on foreign policy condemns both the US and the USSR, but it also reaffirms unequivocal support for INF and an independent nuclear deterrent. Senior French officials had privately assured the US Embassy that neither Mitterrand's thinking nor French policy would be affected by the resolution. In addition, party officials demanded that their Communist coalition partners reduce their criticism of the government. []

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Comment: President Mitterrand's political position within France and in the Socialist Party has been strengthened by the unity of the congress. The congress did nothing substantial, however, to heal party divisions—based largely on economic issues—that probably will reemerge after a brief period. Although the leftists managed to wring some anti-American rhetoric from the congress majority, it is highly unlikely that this signals any change in French policy. []

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USSR: Politburo Candidate Member Dies

The death on Monday of Uzbek First Secretary and Politburo candidate member Rashidov gives General Secretary Andropov another opportunity to fill an important republic post. [redacted]

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Rashidov—a candidate member of the Politburo for 22 years and Uzbek Party First Secretary since 1959—will be the third republic first secretary to be replaced since Andropov assumed power. New first secretaries in Belorussia and Azerbaijan, who were appointed soon after Brezhnev's death, are not members of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and thus were not eligible to assume the Politburo seats held by their predecessors. [redacted]

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Comment: Rashidov's death enables Andropov to strengthen his power base at the republic level. Andropov lacks close ties to local party officials. Some republic leaders [redacted] reportedly preferred Secretary Chernenko to succeed Brezhnev. [redacted]

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Andropov may follow a precedent set by Brezhnev and seek to appoint an Uzbek who already occupies an important republic post, such as the Premier or the head of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet, both of whom are already full members of the national Central Committee. [redacted]

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[redacted] the General Secretary could choose someone outside the official republic establishment who would carry out Andropov's policy lines. The Azerbaijan and Belorussian examples indicate that Rashidov's replacement need not be a Central Committee member.

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It is unlikely in any case that the new Uzbek leader will be immediately brought into the Politburo as a candidate member. Under Andropov, key posts that formerly rated membership have been given to persons lacking the requisite political standing or support, suggesting a decision by the Politburo to limit its size for the present. Such a situation, however, creates a pool of incumbents who owe their loyalties largely to Andropov, and he can be expected eventually to promote them into the Politburo as he strengthens his position. [redacted]

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Camps for Salvadoran Refugees



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2 November 1983

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HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR: Insurgents Using Refugee Camps

A Honduran Army patrol late last month engaged in three firefights with Salvadoran insurgents near the camp for Salvadoran refugees at Colomoncagua. Honduran authorities believe that insurgents are using the camp as a safehaven. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Claims that insurgents use refugee camps in Honduras—including the one at San Antonio as well as the one at Colomoncagua—are not new, but clashes between Honduran forces and Salvadoran insurgents have been rare. The recent skirmishes probably will result in new demands to move the refugee camps farther from the border. They may also make Honduras more reluctant to accept additional Salvadoran refugees. [REDACTED]

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CUBA: Antigovernment Incidents

[REDACTED] antigovernment activities are increasing. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] economic crimes in Havana have increased recently and that the regime is executing some of those apprehended for the crimes. [REDACTED]

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Comment: These actions, which took place before the US intervention in Grenada, probably are in protest against Havana's failure to improve living standards. Most of the incidents appear to have been carried out by youths, who make up nearly half the population and who have no memory of the pre-Castro era. Cuba's highly efficient security forces and severe punishments prevent organized opposition, but isolated acts of sabotage and crime are likely to continue. [REDACTED]

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KUWAIT: Terrorist Threats

Black June, the radical Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal, is planning terrorist actions against US and West European schools and other institutions in Kuwait, according to sources of the US Embassy. The group is believed to be supported by Iraq and is trying to blackmail the Kuwaiti Government into releasing imprisoned Black June terrorists. The US, British, French, and West German Embassies have jointly asked the Kuwaiti Government for increased protection for the schools. In a possibly related incident, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates received a death threat on Sunday that he attributed to Black June. []

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Comment: Reports [] that Americans in Kuwait would be the target of radical Palestinian terrorists increased soon after the bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut. Iraq is seeking support from Western and Persian Gulf states for its war effort and is unlikely to be promoting attacks against these interests. Abu Nidal's group, which is believed to have moved its operations from Baghdad to Damascus, probably carried out the recent attacks on Jordanian diplomats in Rome and New Delhi. The group may also be attempting to extort money from Persian Gulf states by threatening their interests. []

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LEBANON: Key Army Post Filled

Lebanese Army Commander Tannous has named Brig. Gen. Abbas Hamdan, the Army's senior Shia officer, to be acting chief of staff during the absence of the Druze incumbent, Nadim al Hakim. Al Hakim has been absent from his post since mid-October, when he went to the Shuf mountains to discuss the desertion of several hundred Lebanese Army Druze with local religious and political leaders. []

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Comment: By naming a Shia to the chief of staff post as the national reconciliation talks begin, the Lebanese Government is trying to encourage the cooperation of Shia political leader Nabih Barri. The government probably hopes Barri will view the appointment of Hamdan as a sign of its willingness to meet some Shia demands for a larger role in government and security posts. []

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ISRAEL: Foreign Currency Controls

The government ban on foreign currency purchases by Israelis, effective yesterday, will do little to calm public uncertainty over Israel's economic future. Exceptions to the restriction will be allowed for Israeli travelers abroad—who can purchase up to \$3,000—and importers. Israelis purchased foreign currency outside the banking system yesterday, driving the black-market exchange rate to at least 9 percent above the official rate. Foreign exchange reserves dropped \$176 million last month, according to the Central Bank. []

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Comment: Finance Minister Cohen-Orgad took this action to stem the downward pressure on the stock exchange from continuing heavy stock sales and to reduce the strong demand for foreign currency that had recurred in recent days. []

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USSR: Andropov's Health

General Secretary Andropov, in a message to an international antiwar group published over the weekend, said he had been unable to meet with the group's representatives in Moscow on 21 October because of a cold. Andropov had met with the South Yemeni leader on 28 September but has not met with any other foreign visitors or been seen in public since mid-August. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Failure by Andropov to appear next Monday at the parade commemorating the anniversary of the Revolution, or at least at the indoor ceremonies preceding it, probably would indicate that he is either seriously ill or recuperating from an illness. If Andropov has had several weeks of rest, the symptoms of his chronic cardiovascular problems should have been alleviated, but a severe cold or influenza could have set him back. He postponed a planned trip to Bulgaria, and a Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow reportedly was canceled—possibly due to the state of the Soviet leader's health. [REDACTED]

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PHILIPPINES: Marcos Clarifies Succession

President Marcos announced Monday that, in the event of his death or incapacitation, Prime Minister Cesar Virata would assume all presidential duties. Marcos promised to vest the Prime Minister legally with these powers, which presumably would alter the present constitutional provisions for succession. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Marcos' announcement is an attempt to quiet opposition demands for the reinstitution of the vice presidency, as well as to reassure nervous international bankers about the prospects for stability. The constitution now calls for the 10-member Executive Committee, which Virata chairs, to head an interim government to oversee elections within 90 days. Without a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the authority of the Prime Minister, whom Marcos can replace, the change will not mean much. There are no signs yet, however, that Marcos plans to take the necessary legal steps to amend the constitution, which leaves the issue open to legal challenge. [REDACTED]

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

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